

National Transportation Safety Board
Washington, DC 20594

Brief of Accident

Adopted 11/25/2003

DEN02GA102		09/04/2002		Howard, CO		Aircraft Reg No. N24GS		Time (Local): 06:56 MDT	
Make/Model:		Cessna / A185F						Fatal	
Engine Make/Model:		Continental / IO-520-D				Crew		1	
Aircraft Damage:		Destroyed				Pass		0	
Number of Engines:		1						0	
Operating Certificate(s):		None						0	
Type of Flight Operation:		Air Drop						0	
Reg. Flight Conducted Under:		Part 91: General Aviation						0	
Last Depart. Point:		Salida, CO						Condition of Light: Day	
Destination:		Local Flight						Weather Info Src: Weather Observation Facility	
Airport Proximity:		Off Airport/Airstrip						Basic Weather: Visual Conditions	
								Lowest Ceiling: None	
								Visibility: 10.00 SM	
								Wind Dir/Speed: 240 / 019 Kts	
								Temperature (°C): 4	
								Precip/Obscuration: None / None	
Pilot-in-Command		Age: 57						Flight Time (Hours)	
Certificate(s)/Rating(s)								Total All Aircraft: 7600	
Flight Instructor; Commercial; Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea								Last 90 Days: Unk/Nr	
Instrument Ratings								Total Make/Model: Unk/Nr	
Airplane								Total Instrument Time: UnK/Nr	

the pilot was flying to a high altitude lake (elevation 11,300 feet) to aerially plant fish for the State of Colorado. The winds at the lower altitudes were calm. At 11,429 feet, data collected from an onboard GPS recorder, indicated that the airplane performed an abrupt 90 degree turn to the left, and impacted the adjacent ridge. Three other Colorado State pilots, flying the same mission in the area, reported wind shear and moderate turbulence from 11,500 to 12,500 feet. The density altitude was calculated to be 12,350 feet.

Brief of Accident (Continued)

DEN02GA102

File No. 14216

09/04/2002

Howard, CO

Aircraft Reg No. N24GS

Time (Local): 06:56 MDT

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER

Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - TURBULENCE,CLEAR AIR

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

2. (C) CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - HIGH DENSITY ALTITUDE
4. TERRAIN CONDITION - MOUNTAINOUS/HILLY

Findings Legend: (C) = Cause, (F) = Factor

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows.

the pilot's failure to maintain clearance of the terrain. Contributing factors were the clear air turbulent weather condition, and the high density altitude condition.